

Education Finance Focus Group

In response to key question:

How can resources be linked to performance goals and student outcomes?

Idea # 2 - Consider other state education finance models that link budget and financial management systems with student outcomes and consider information from results of the current consultant study of DOE financial management system.

Why this is important?

Most other states have been faced with legal challenges to their resource allocation models and have had to develop court-approved financial management models. These models ensure that state funds are distributed on an equitable basis but also ensure that state funds are sufficient to assure the students meet statewide educational requirements. Additionally, as the DOE moves towards a complex-based model of management and service delivery, it would be useful to consider adopting a complex-based budgeting and financial management system. In reviewing several state models, the State of Oregon has come the closest to developing a resource allocation and financial management system that connects resources with student outcomes. Oregon has developed prototypes for elementary, middle, and high school, that identifies an adequate level of funding and a method for equitable distribution. Although facing it's own financial challenges, Oregon has made a long-term commitment to fully funding the Quality Education Model (QEM) and Oregonians have approved additional revenues to be appropriated for and budget cuts in other program areas to help fund the QEM.

How will it impact student achievement?

Schools will be provided a base amount of funding, with additional funds targeted to areas of greatest need within the school. For example, funds might be targeted for remediation in reading, writing, or math - or integrated curriculum that provides additional instructional time in core areas.

Action Needed to Implement

Information from DOE consultant study and assistance from national experts through organizations such as the Education Commission of the State, National Conference of State Legislature, and other school finance experts.